

RECURRENT IMPLANTATION FAILURE FACT SHEET

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

Recurrent implantation failure is usually defined as more than 3 transfers of embryos without implantation (no positive pregnancy test).

What we do know:

It is difficult to understand why implantation does not occur but age, embryo quality and submucosal fibroids are known to affect implantation:

- [Age of the woman: As a woman gets older, the chance of conception from IVF treatment declines. This is a well established fact and is most likely secondary to the increasing number of abnormal (aneuploidic) embryos created as a woman gets older. Unfortunately there is no treatment for this.
- [Embryo quality: There is a reduced chance of conception if the embryo quality is poor. Although embryo quality is a purely subjective analysis made on the appearance of the embryos, there is good evidence to suggest that poorer quality embryos are less likely to implant with overall pregnancy rates being less.
- [Submucosal fibroids: Fibroids located within the uterine cavity are known to cause implantation failure and should be removed prior to commencing treatment. They are diagnosed by ultrasound scan with saline instillation sonography and treated by means of a hysteroscopy and transcervical resection under general anaesthetic.

What we don't know or is not established currently in the literature:

Immunological Causes

Blood Flow